

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will place all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled).

41. (New) An isolated polynucleotide comprising:

(a) a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; or

(b) a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of SEQ ID NO:1 and which encodes a protein with O-acetylhomoserine sulphydrylase activity, wherein said stringent conditions comprises washing in 0.1 X SSC at a temperature of from 50 to 68°C.

42. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 41, which is (a).

43. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 42, which comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

44. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 41, which is (b).

45. (New) A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 42.

46. (New) A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 43.

47. (New) A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 44.

48. (New) A host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 42.

49. (New) The host cell of Claim 48, which is a *coryneform* bacteria.

50. (New) The host cell of Claim 48, wherein the activity of the polypeptide encoded by the isolated polynucleotide is increased relative to the host cell without the isolated polynucleotide.

51. (New) The host cell of Claim 50, wherein the activity of the polypeptide is increased at least 10% relative to the host cell without the isolated polynucleotide.

52. (New) A host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 43.

53. (New) The host cell of Claim 52, which is a *coryneform* bacteria.

54. (New) The host cell of Claim 52, wherein the activity of the polypeptide encoded by the isolated polynucleotide is increased relative to the host cell without the isolated polynucleotide.

55. (New) The host cell of Claim 54, wherein the activity of the polypeptide is increased at least 10% relative to the host cell without the isolated polynucleotide.

56. (New) A host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 44.

57. (New) The host cell of Claim 56, which is a *coryneform* bacteria.

58. (New) The host cell of Claim 56, wherein the activity of the polypeptide encoded by the isolated polynucleotide is increased relative to the host cell without the isolated polynucleotide.

59. (New) The host cell of Claim 58, wherein the activity of the polypeptide is increased at least 10% relative to the host cell without the isolated polynucleotide.

60. (New) A process for preparing L-amino acids, comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 48 for a time and under conditions suitable for the production of the L-amino acid; and isolating the L-amino acid produced.

61. (New) The process of Claim 60, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine and/or L-methionine.

62. (New) The process of Claim 60, wherein the host cell comprises one or more overexpressed polynucleotides which encode a protein selected from the group consisting of glycerolaldehyde 3 phosphate dehydrogenase, triose phosphate isomerase, 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, pyruvate carboxylase, aspartate kinase, cystathionine-gamma-synthase, cystathionine-gamma-lyase, and serine hydroxymethyltransferase.

63. (New) The process of Claim 60, wherein the host cell comprises one or more attenuated genes which encode proteins selected from the group consisting of phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase, glucose 6-phosphate isomerase, pyruvate oxidase, homoserine

kinase, threonine dehydratase, threonine synthase, meso-diaminopimelate D-dehydrogenase, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase, glucose 6-phosphate isomerase, and pyruvate oxidase.

64. (New) A process for preparing L-amino acids, comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 52 for a time and under conditions suitable for the production of the L-amino acid; and isolating the L-amino acid produced.

65. (New) The process of Claim 64, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine and/or L-methionine.

66. (New) The process of Claim 64, wherein the host cell comprises one or more overexpressed polynucleotides which encode a protein selected from the group consisting of glyceraldehyde 3 phosphate dehydrogenase, triose phosphate isomerase, 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, pyruvate carboxylase, aspartate kinase, cystathionine-gamma-synthase, cystathionine-gamma-lyase, and serine hydroxymethyltransferase.

67. (New) The process of Claim 64, wherein the host cell comprises one or more attenuated genes which encode proteins selected from the group consisting of phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase, glucose 6-phosphate isomerase, pyruvate oxidase, homoserine kinase, threonine dehydratase, threonine synthase, meso-diaminopimelate D-dehydrogenase, phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase, glucose 6-phosphate isomerase, and pyruvate oxidase.

68. (New) A process for preparing L-amino acids, comprising

culturing the host cell of Claim 56 for a time and under conditions suitable for the production of the L-amino acid; and  
isolating the L-amino acid produced.

69. (New) The process of Claim 68, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine and/or L-methionine.

70. (New) The process of Claim 68, wherein the host cell comprises one or more overexpressed polynucleotides which encode a protein selected from the group consisting of glycerolaldehyde 3 phosphate dehydrogenase, triose phosphate isomerase, 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, pyruvate carboxylase, aspartate kinase, cystathionine-gamma-synthase, cystathionine-gamma-lyase, and serine hydroxymethyltransferase.

71. (New) The process of Claim 68, wherein the host cell comprises one or more attenuated genes which encode proteins selected from the group consisting of phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase, glucose 6-phosphate isomerase, pyruvate oxidase, homoserine kinase, threonine dehydratase, threonine synthase, meso-diaminopimelate D-dehydrogenase, phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase, glucose 6-phosphate isomerase, and pyruvate oxidase.

72. (New) A method of preparing an L-amino acid containing feedstuff additive, comprising

(a) culturing the host cell of Claim 48 in a fermentation broth for a time and under conditions suitable for the production of the L-amino acid;

(b) concentrating the L-amino acid produced;

(c) removing an amount of 0 to 100 wt% of biomass formed during the culturing; and

(d) drying the fermentation broth obtained in one or both of (b) and (c) to obtain the animal feedstuff additive.

73. (New) A method of preparing an L-amino acid containing feedstuff additive, comprising

(a) culturing the host cell of Claim 52 in a fermentation broth for a time and under conditions suitable for the production of the L-amino acid;

(b) concentrating the L-amino acid produced;

(c) removing an amount of 0 to 100 wt% of biomass formed during the culturing; and

(d) drying the fermentation broth obtained in one or both of (b) and (c) to obtain the animal feedstuff additive.

74. (New) A method of preparing an L-amino acid containing feedstuff additive, comprising

(a) culturing the host cell of Claim 56 in a fermentation broth for a time and under conditions suitable for the production of the L-amino acid;

(b) concentrating the L-amino acid produced;

(c) removing an amount of 0 to 100 wt% of biomass formed during the culturing; and

(d) drying the fermentation broth obtained in one or both of (b) and (c) to obtain the animal feedstuff additive.